AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Upon entry of this amendment, the following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the pending application.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 7, 9, 14 and 22, and cancel claims 6 and 13 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for collaborative exchange of Web based content information between and among disparate and unrelated content sources, the system comprising:

at least a web content server, disposed at a facility, the facility belonging to a particular content provider, the provider providing content through the web server;

a server appliance, electronically disposed between the web server and a wide area communication network, the appliance terminating a HTTP session directed to the web server and initiating a HTTP session with the web server as a substitute; and

a content collaboration engine, the engine hosted on the server appliance, the content collaboration engine further comprising;

a content recognition engine, the recognition engine receiving content from the web server in response to the HTTP session initiated by the appliance, the recognition engine converting received content to DOM, the recognition engine further classifying content in accordance with XML recognition rules; and

a content mapping engine, the mapping engine extracting content definition fields from classified content and requesting, via a request for information protocol comprising a content category structure definition, related content from a consortium of collaborating sites, the content category structure definition having a format for categorizing content, the requested content having content definition fields including values substantially the same as the extracted content definition fields.

2. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 1, further comprising a content fusion engine, the fusion engine integrating related content received from collaborating sites with classified content, the fusion engine converting the fused content to a desired output format.

3. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 2, wherein the desired output format is selected from a group consisting of HTML, WML, XML, and PDF.

4. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 2, further comprising:

a network gateway; and

wherein the server appliance is interposed between the gateway and the content server, the appliance configured to appear as the gateway to the content server and as the content server to the gateway.

5. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 2, further comprising:

a network gateway; a network management agent; and

wherein the server appliance is coupled to the network management agent, the agent configured to redirect HTTP requests made to the content server to the appliance.

6. (Canceled).

7. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1 ~~6~~, wherein the request for information protocol comprises a format for defining a structure that identifies valid content fields a content provider can be queried against in order to identify and recover content from a specific category categorized by the content category structure definition.

8. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 7, wherein the request for information protocol further comprises means for requesting collaborative information from third party content sources.

9. (Currently Amended) In a system for exchanging Web based content information between and among disparate and unrelated content sources, a method for collaborative exchange of related content, the method comprising:

providing content through at least a web server, disposed at a facility, the facility belonging to a particular content provider;

electronically disposing a server appliance between the web server and a wide area communication network, the appliance terminating a HTTP session directed to the web server and initiating a HTTP session with the web server as a substitute; and

receiving content from the web server in response to the HTTP session initiated by the appliance;

converting received content to DOM;

classifying content in accordance with XML recognition rules;

extracting content definition fields from classified content ; and

requesting related content from a consortium of collaborating sites via a request for information protocol comprising a content category structure having a format for categorizing content.

10. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 9, further comprising:

the requested content having content definition fields including values substantially the same as the extracted content definition fields; and

integrating related content received from collaborating sites with classified content.

11. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 10, further comprising the step of converting the fused content to a desired output format.

12. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the desired output format is selected from a group consisting of HTML, WML, XML, and PDF.

13. (Canceled).

14. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 9 ~~13~~, wherein the request for information protocol comprises a format for defining a structure that identifies valid content fields a content provider can be queried against in order to identify and recover content from a specific category categorized by the content category structure definition.

15. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein the request for information protocol further comprises means for requesting collaborative information from third party content sources.

16. (Previously presented) In a system for exchanging Web based content information between and among disparate and unrelated content sources, a method for collaborative exchange of related content, the method comprising:

establishing a consortium of content sources; defining a content category structure;

establishing a request for information protocol; and

wherein the content category structure definition comprises a format for categorizing all content sources collaborating in the exchange of content within the consortium.

17. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein the request for information protocol comprises a format for defining a structure that identifies valid content fields a content provider can be queried against in order to identify and recover content from a specific category categorized by the content category structure definition.

18. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the request for information protocol further comprises means for requesting collaborative information from third party content sources.

19. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein the content category structure definition further comprises category tags, the category tags identifying a particular category according to a pre-defined name indicia.

20. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein the content category structure definition further comprises a structure tag, the structure tag identifying at least one structure field according to a pre-defined name indicia, the at least one structure field defining a valid field against which a content provider implementing a particular category may be queried against.

21. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein the content category structure definition further comprises synonym identification means for associating operative synonym terminology to a category name or structure field lexicography.

22. (Currently Amended) A system for collaborative exchange of Web based content information between and among disparate and unrelated content sources, the system comprising:

at least a web content server, disposed at a facility, the facility belonging to a particular content provider, the provider providing content through the web server;

a server appliance, electronically disposed between the web server and a wide area communication network, the appliance terminating a HTTP session directed to the web server and initiating a HTTP session with the web server as a substitute, the server appliance constructed to request content from a consortium of content sources via a request for information protocol comprising a content category structure, the content category structure having a format for categorizing content sources;

a network client, the client operatively responsive to user input commands and coupled to communicate over the wide area communication network; and

wherein the server appliance comprises means for executing a series of transactions with the web server on behalf of the user prior to the user accessing a session with the web server.

23. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 22, further comprising a proxy URL providing an entry point to the session from which the user can continue the session at a point of completion of execution of the series of transactions.